

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2834

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 5942

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FOR THE SECRETARY FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR IS US LE

SUBJ: ISRAELI ARMS FOR LEBANESE CHRISTIANS

REF: STATE 214437

1. I DISCUSSED THIS SUBJECT WITH ALLON AUGUST 30. I SAID PRESSURE WAS GROWING TO SAY SOMETHING TO THE CONGRESS AND IT MIGHT BE USEFUL AT SOME POINT TO BE ABLE TO SAY PUBLICLY THAT ISRAEL HAS ASSURED US THAT IT IS SUPPLYING NO US-FURNISHED ARMS TO LEBANESE CHRISTIANS. BEFORE MAKING A DECISION ON THIS, YOU WISHED ME TO CHECK WITH HIM.

2. ALLON RESPONDED AS YOU EXPECTED BY SAYING THAT OF COURSE IF WE SAID THAT, THE IMPLICATION WOULD BE LEFT THAT THE ISRAELIS ARE SUPPLYING WEAPONS OBTAINED FROM OTHER SOURCES. THIS WOULD BE HARMFUL TO THE MARONITES. HE SUGGESTED THAT YOU SAY TO CONGRESS IN CONFIDENCE THAT ISRAEL IS NOT SUPPLYING ANY US-FURNISHED WEAPONS BUT PUBLICLY CONTINUE TO SAY THAT WE ARE NOT AWARE THAT ISRAEL IS SUPPLYING ANY WEAPONS TO LEBANON.

3. I SAID THAT WHILE I DOUBTED THIS WOULD BE A FEASIBLE LINE, I WOULD REPORT HIS VIEWS BACK TO YOU AND THAT WE WOULD ATTEMPT TO DEVISE A FORMULA WHICH WOULD MEET HIS CONCERNS WE WOULD THEN TRY OUT ON HIM. HE AGREED TO THIS AND NOTED THAT HE EXPECTS QUESTIONS ON THIS SUBJECT WHEN HE IS IN NEW YORK NEXT MONTH.

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